

**Remarks**

Claims 19 through 48 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 first paragraph as failing to comply with the enable requirement. The Examiner refers specifically to page 3 lines 11 through 16 which apparently state that the micro stable fibers are not formed by spinning fleece or melt blown methods, without specifying how the fibers are formed. In response to this rejection, the Applicant has amended the second paragraph on page 3 to correct this problem. The confusion stems from a translation error departing from the original German language disclosure. The original language specified that the fibers are not formed together with the fleece in one single step, rather are formed in a separate step, prior to the fleece forming step. In general, the fibers are spun in the previous step. In order to avoid issues of new matter, the Applicant has elected to cancel the confusing sentence on page 3. Review and acceptance is requested.

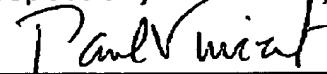
Claims 19 through 35, 37, 38 and 45 through 48 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoertsch '846 in view of Lin '189. The Examiner has, however, indicated that claims 36 and 39 through 44 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable over the prior art if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response thereto, the Applicant has entered new claims 49, 50 and 51. Claim 49 contains the limitations of allowable claim 36 and intervening claims 31, 28 and 19 and is therefore allowable. Claim 50 corresponds to the limitations of claim 39 and 19 and is therefore allowable, and 51

contains the limitations of allowable claim 43 and base claim 19 and is therefore also allowable. Claims 28, 31, 36, 39, and 43 have accordingly been cancelled. The remaining dependent claims are either directly or indirectly dependent upon an allowable base. The Applicant therefore believes this application to be in a position of allowance and requests passage to issuance.

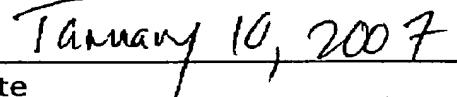
No new matter has been added in this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Paul Vincent

Registration number 37,461



Date

Dreiss, Fuhlendorf, Steinle & Becker  
Patentanwälte  
Postfach 10 37 62  
D-70032 Stuttgart, Germany  
Telephone +49-711-24 89 38-0  
Fax +49-711-24 89 38-99